

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CU-04

PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 /084 W

----- 122765

O R 281300Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0901

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH

SUBJ: SPECIAL PRC FLIGHTS TO U.S.

1. DEPUTY HEAD OF FONOFF CHINA DIV., OGURA, SUMMONED EMBOFF EVENING MARCH 28 TO POSE QUESTIONS REGARDING SPECIAL PRC FLIGHTS INTO U.S. OGURA EXPLAINED THAT GOJ HAD BEEN ASKED FOR LANDING/OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR TWO PRC FLIGHTS THAT WE DESTINED FOR U.S. FIRST FLIGHT WOULD ARRIVE IN TOKYO MARCH 30 CARRYING MEMBERS OF PRC TABLE TENNIS DELEGATION. FROM THAT POINT, HOWEVER, AIRCRAFT, CARRYING CREW ONLY, WOULD FLY TO ANCHORAGE (ON APRIL 1) AND THEN TO NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO OGURA, THIS FLIGHT WOULD SERVE AS TEST FOR AN APRIL 6 FLIGHT WHICH WOULD CARRY MEMBERS OF PRC DELEGATION TO SPECIAL UNGA SESSION. LATTER FLIGHT WOULD OVERFLY JAPAN.

2. OGURA'S SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) HAS THE USG GIVEN PERMISSION FOR TEST FLIGHT?

B) HAS USG GIVEN PERMISSION FOR SPECIAL FLIGHT CARRYING DEL TO SPECIAL UNGA?

C) HAS U.S. MADE OR DOES IT PLAN TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THESE FLIGHTS?

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D) DOES THE USG DESIRE THAT THE GOJ ATTEMPT TO KEEP NEWS

OF FLIGHTS FROM REACHING PRESS? IF SO FOR HOW LONG?

3. OGURA EXPLAINED THAT UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT NEED TO CONSULT WITH USG. HOWEVER, WITH JAPANESE PRESS ATTENTION FOCUSED SO HEAVILY AT PRESENT ON QUESTION OF JAPAN-CHINA AIR AGREEMENT, PRESS LIABLE TO EXAGGERATE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF FLIGHTS TO U.S., WHICH APPARENTLY ARE FIRST MADE BY PRC. OGURA SAID THAT AT THIS POINT ONLY CHINA DIV. AWARE OF PRC OVERFLIGHT/LANDING REQUEST. ON FRIDAY MARCH 29, HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND LEAKS WOULD BE VERY PROBABLE. HOWEVER, FONOFF WOULD DO ITS BEST TO PREVENT PRESS LEAKS IF USG BELIEVED IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSED BY PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF FLIGHTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FONOFF WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO ITS QUESTIONS IN PARA 2 ABOVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 29 (TOKYO TIME) IF THAT IS POSSIBLE.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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